



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 26, 2003

S. 499

Buffalo Soldier Commemoration Act of 2003

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on June 25, 2003*

S. 499 would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a memorial to honor buffalo soldiers in New Orleans, Louisiana. (Buffalo soldiers are African-Americans who served in the United States Army during certain armed conflicts.) The bill would direct the commission to solicit contributions for the construction and maintenance of the memorial to be located on either federal land or other property that might be donated. Contributions would be deposited into a newly created account, and those funds including any interest earnings would be available for construction costs. Before construction of the memorial could begin, the commission would have to execute an agreement with an appropriate local entity to provide for maintenance of the structure. (Any amounts remaining after construction would be transferred to that entity for maintenance.) Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary to carry out the legislation.

Based on the cost of other monuments and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the commission would spend less than \$5 million to build the memorial over the next several years. The bill could increase revenues and direct spending if the commission raised private contributions to offset the cost of the memorial. CBO has no basis for predicting the amount that might be collected from private contributions, but any net budgetary impact of those transactions would likely be minor.

S. 499 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Participation in this project by the state of Louisiana would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.